

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, July 10, 2024 @ 9:30 am**

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams (see code for meeting in your email or contact Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov for the code)

MINUTES

Council: Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Vice-Chairman Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Dr. Andy Horowitz, and Ms. Sara Nelson, Ms. Deanna Rhodes, Dr. Sarah Sportman

Absent: Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser

Staff: Mr. Kevin Berger, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Catherine Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine, Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski

Guests: Mr. David Zamachaj, Ms. Susan Leaming Pollich, Ms. Jane Montanaro, Ms. Neele Banks, Mr. Thomas Herbig, Ms. Shanna Adams

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order @9:32 a.m.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Vice-Chairman Butkus read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Vice-Chairman Butkus read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest and asked if there were any conflicts with staff members or Council. There were no conflicts reported.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

A. Minutes – June 5, 2024 Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Council voted to approve the June 5, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

1. Survey and Planning Grant, New Canaan Preservation Alliance, consulting services to prepare a National Register Nomination for 6 Modern residences, New Canaan

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Mr. Horowitz, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: New Canaan Preservation Alliance

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The New Canaan Preservation Alliance requested funding, in the amount of \$20,000, to obtain the consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architectural historian to prepare a National Register nomination form for 6 Modern residences in New Canaan, CT. Connecticut already has a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for modern architecture and this will be the 6th historic district listed under the MPDF.

Ms. Nelson stated that this was a great application and she was very happy to see it before Council.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Dunne to clarify how the historic district and the MPDF relate to each other. Ms. Dunne responded that this will be a unique National Register district and the MPDF document provides the context for the resources that are listed using the cover document.

Ms. Susan Leaming Pollich stated that she was very excited as are all of the neighbors in the area and thanked Council for their approval.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, St. James Roman Catholic Church, condition assessment of the St. James Church building, Stratford, CT

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by

the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Saint James Roman Catholic Church
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Saint James Roman Catholic Church requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect to prepare a Condition Assessment for St. James Church (1914), located at 2110 Main St., Stratford, CT. This will be a comprehensive conditions assessment and this is the first time this applicant has applied for SHPO funding. They have already identified several issues with the building, including issues with the spires and water infiltration. Mr. David Zamachaj was on the call to answer any questions.

Ms. Acly asked Mr. Zamachaj to summarize the work that was done to the building in 2003. Mr. Zamachaj responded that the work included the addition of a window above the altar and additional cosmetic work, but nothing structural. Ms. Acly mentioned the masonry crack below the window. Mr. Zamachaj replied that the crack had been patched previously because they were unaware of any underlying issues that might be causing it and it reappeared a year later.

Ms. Nelson noted, looking at the project timeline, that it appears the work will have to be done in the colder months.

Vice-Chairman Butkus stated that it may make more sense to focus on the building envelope and structural concerns with this particular assessment. Ms. Dunne will work with the applicant on their RFP to ensure this work is a high priority.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Dudley Foundation, plans and specifications to support the restoration of Dudley Farmhouse, Guilford, CT

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: The Dudley Foundation
Amount: \$2,750

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Dudley Foundation requested funding in the amount of \$2,750 to obtain the consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect/engineer team to prepare plans and specifications to support the restoration of the Dudley Farm House (1844), 2351 Durham Road, Guilford. This is a modest request and is only for the Civil War era addition to the building. The applicant is looking to have an architect and a structural engineer on the team.

Ms. Nelson recommended double-checking the budget. She noticed that the applicant prudently included investigatory demolition in the scope and wants to make sure that they have enough funding. Ms. Dunne responded that if the bids come back too high, the applicant can come back for additional funds.

Ms. Acly agreed that the budget seemed a bit low, especially if both an architect and engineer are both involved. A realistic budget may be closer to \$10,000.

Vice-Chairman Butkus commented that the applicant should consider grading the site to move water away from the building. Dr. Sportman responded that they will need to be careful if regrading as that would potentially impact archaeological resources associated with the property.

4. Partners In Preservation Grant, Town of East Haddam, consulting services of a community planning firm to facilitate visioning workshops for the redevelopment of the Old Town Office Site, East Haddam.

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Ms. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Partners in Preservation Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of East Haddam

Amount: \$15,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The town of East Haddam requested funding in the amount of \$15,000 to obtain the consulting services of a community planning firm to facilitate visioning workshops for the redevelopment of the Old Town Office Site, 1 & 7 Main Street, East Haddam. This is a matching grant, so the total cost is approximately \$30,000.

Ms. Nelson stated that she was thrilled to see the Town engaging in this effort. She recommended that the Town consider completing a pro-forma which will allow for the articulation of the economics involved in the redevelopment.

Ms. Carnell indicated that she did not see the certified resolution that is required as part of the application. Ms. Dunne stated that the resolution is needed before the contract is executed and it has since been received.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

1. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places, 102 Huntington Street, Hartford

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Ms. Rhodes, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list 102 Huntington Street, Hartford, to the State Register of Historic Places. Staff recommended this item for approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application to the Council. The property at 102 Huntington Street is propose for listing as an extension of the Sigourney Street Historic District under Criterion 1 and Criterion 2 at the local level. The property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and alterations have been minimal. The property was drawn out of the original boundary of the historic district, so this is really a correction. The Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA) owns the property and wants to rehabilitate it into affordable housing.

Ms. Burgess noticed an error on page 7. The reference to Thomas Hooker should be John Hooker instead.

Ms. Acly requested that the name of the original owner's partner be added to the documentation if it is available.

Ms. Carnell stated that this was a nice, solid nomination and she was happy to support it.

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates – Todd Levine

25 South Main Street, Norwalk - Mr. Levine reported that the owner of the property currently under threat of demolition has agreed not to demolish until after the August HPC meeting.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney reported that he is still waiting to hear back from his contact at the Governor's office regarding HPC membership updates. There is one new candidate for membership that SHPO will be moving forward with. The hope is that this new member will fill the vacancy left by Ellen Zoppo-Sassu's resignation.

Mr. Kinney also reported that he would like to schedule a lunchtime webinar in August to review HPC's statutory roles with them. He will send out some potential dates/times.

Mr. Kinney introduced SHPO Archaeologist Cory Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson provided an overview of SHPO's new digital ER submission system and the benefits it will bring to staff and constituents.

Finally, Mr. Kinney announced that several members of SHPO staff will be attending a meeting at Seaside State Park tomorrow (7/11) with DAS and DEEP to discuss options for incorporating the historic buildings or elements thereof into the design for the new passive park.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro reported that there were successful openings for all four museums, including Prudence Crandall which opened in early June, about a month late. Seasonal staff is all working out very well, and coverage at the sites – including curator of collections Jodi Polsgrove's willingness to have a flexible schedule and pitch in during the museum season – is allowing permanent staff to even take a few days off!

The new POS system has been implemented, and thus far, it appears to be running smoothly. It's too early to see if it will solve some of the issues staff have been experiencing and save us money, but we'll be monitoring it through the season.

At the Prudence Crandall Museum, work to repair and replace the incorrectly installed plaster ceilings on the first floor of the museum continues. There is a plan in place, and the Department of Administrative Services continues to act as the point of contact so that the project will someday be completed to general satisfaction.

Curator Joanie DiMartino is piloting test activities in each room of the Crandall museum for younger guests to enjoy while older guests receive a more adult-centered tour. Although there is limited visitation to the museum by children, we do get family groups. These activities are being tested by visitors and thus far we've had a very positive response.

Ms. Shapiro highly recommends a visit to the museum this season, as accompanying the regular museum exhibit, we have a small exhibit featuring quilted pieces of art relating to the Crandall story by CT artist Edjohnetta Miller, who is a nationally known quilting artist who creates, shares and teaches the use of fiber arts to highlight social justice

issues. She is a past recipient of the Governor's Art Award bestowed by the CT Arts Council and is a CT teaching artist. <https://edjohnetta.com/>

The bad weather and storms during the last weekend in June took out power and multiple trees at the Eric Sloane Museum. Staff is still working on the cleanup, and repairs to the museum's exhaust fans.

The museum hosted its annual Fourth of July bell ringing, and one very zealous adult guest actually pulled the rope so hard that they dislodged the bell right before the ringing was supposed to start. We were saved by Spectrum who happened to have a bucket truck parked by the main entrance and they helped to reset the bell so that the official shared ringing could take place.

Recently, Governor John Dempsey's daughter stopped by the museum to donate an engraved brass bell her father received from Eric Sloane and Eric Hatch as a thank you for his support of the bell ringing. This will be a great item to help tell the story of Independence Day and the state's support of the museum in all its nuances.

The two-day furniture restoration class offered in late June sold out. This is the first of the intensive two-day hand-craft classes offered by the museum this year, and they have been really popular.

At New-Gate, staff received a revised plan for the stabilization of the four-story cell block with funds from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasure's grant. We are waiting on an approval from the Park Service in order to move forward.

Ms. Shapiro was happy to announce that architect Chris Edwards, who worked with us at the Eric Sloane Museum, has been chosen by the Department of Administrative Services, and approved by the Park Service, to assist with implementing the semi-quincentennial rehabilitation project at Viet's Tavern. We have our first meeting with the team next week.

Meanwhile, there is a robust calendar of special programs at New-Gate for the summer. Ms. Shapiro shared a link to information for all the museums in the chat.

At the Henry Whitfield Museum, Curator Michelle Parrish has been working on strengthening relationships with the town of Guilford and its population. To that end, the museum is a participating site in the town wide "Be Kind" campaign, and a participant in the Community "Field Day" program.

Welcome Fest will be happening for the third year in a row on September 15, an event that is part of the national campaign to ensure that newcomers both to the US and to the community and its region feel that they have an important place in the community. The summer archaeology program under the field direction of Professor Bill Farley continues this summer – I believe there are two more weeks to go. This continues to be a draw for visitors who are super-interested in seeing archaeology in the field.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

Ms. Montanaro reported that, for the third summer in a row, Preservation Connecticut staff will be working in conjunction with the summer camp at the Eli Whitney Museum and Workshop to include a historic preservation component in the camp experience.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Ms. Adusei, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
Jonathan Kinney

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday, August 7, 2024 – Meeting Format TBD*